

CLAIMS

- Sub. B2
1. An apparatus for treating a fabric article comprising:
- a) a collapsible or expandable container that is made from a material that defines an interior void space having an open volume of between about 0.75 m³ and about 0.05 m³, and further comprising an opening;
 - b) a humidity provider which comprises an ultrasonic nebulizer;
 - c) a heating element;
 - d) a vent and/or filter; and
 - e) an air circulation device;
- wherein the container can be collapsed to at least about 50% of its open volume.
2. An apparatus for treating a fabric article according to Claim 1 wherein said air circulation device comprises a fan.
3. An apparatus for treating a fabric article according to Claim 1, the output of which is at least 5g/min.
4. An apparatus for treating a fabric article according to Claim 3 wherein said output is dry output, wherein the mist produced by the ultrasonic nebulizer, is a non-wetting mist.
5. An ultrasonic nebulizer comprising a housing, said housing being divided into at least two compartments by a membrane, said membrane comprising a flexible film, such that at least one compartment is liquid and vapor tight, said nebulizer further comprising a built-in heating means and at least one piezoelectric vibrating cell for ultrasonic wave generation located in said liquid and vapor tight compartment and encapsulated by a liquid or gel protective medium, a high-frequency generator for exciting said at least one

Sub-B2 cont.

piezoelectric vibrating cell, wherein said liquid or gel medium is heated by said built-in heating means to a temperature of at least 30°C.

6. An ultrasonic nebulizer according to Claim 5 wherein said liquid or gel medium encapsulating said at least one piezoelectric vibrating cell is a demineralized water-based medium.
7. An ultrasonic nebulizer according to Claim 5 wherein said membrane has a thickness of less than 200µm.
8. An ultrasonic nebulizer according to Claim 7 wherein said membrane has a thickness of about 10µm.
9. An ultrasonic nebulizer according to Claim 5 which further comprises a fan.
10. An ultrasonic nebulizer according to Claim 5 the output of which is at least 5g/min.
11. An ultrasonic nebulizer according to Claim 10 wherein said output is dry output, wherein the mist produced by the ultrasonic nebulizer, is a non-wetting mist.